



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to make March 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Whereas, The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975 and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with the United States Armed Forces and South Vietnam;

Whereas, The United States became involved in Vietnam because policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a communist government, communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia;

Whereas, Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961:

Whereas, As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, effectively handing over war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as "peace and security" had returned to Vietnam;

Whereas, In 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam:

Whereas, By the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, reaching a peak of approximately 543,000 troops by 1969;



2009 HC 1082/DI 84+

Whereas, On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, requiring the release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, On March 30, 1973, the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces combat troops from Vietnam was completed;

Whereas, More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam, and more than 300,000 were wounded;

Whereas, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam;

Whereas, The Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States;

Whereas, Members of the United States Armed Forces, who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War, were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War;

Whereas, The establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, March 30 would be an appropriate day to establish as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:



SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans of the Armed Forces who served in Vietnam and encourages the residents of Indiana to observe Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, March 30, with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam and the importance of helping Vietnam era veterans readjust to civilian life.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Welcome Home Veterans Day, Inc., the State of Indiana Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the National Headquarters of the American Legion.



2009 HC 1082/DI 84+